CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Washington

FINAL REPORT

2026

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

This page is intentionally blank.

Final Report: Washington Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the findings of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for the state of Washington. The CFSRs enable the Children's Bureau (CB) to: (1) ensure conformity with certain federal child welfare requirements; (2) determine what is happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and (3) assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes. Federal law and regulations authorize the CB, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, to administer the review of child and family services programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The CFSRs are structured to help states identify strengths and areas needing improvement in their child welfare practices and programs as well as institute systemic changes that will improve child and family outcomes.

The findings for Washington are based on:

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and submitted to the CB on June 16, 2026. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The February 2026 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 64 cases [39 foster care, 19 in-home, and 6 in-home-differential/alternative response], conducted via a CB-Led Review process at King County, Vancouver, and Yakima in Washington during August 17–21, 2026 examining case practices occurring during August 2025 through August 2026.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
  - Attorneys for the agency
  - Attorneys for children and youth and Court Appointed Special Advocates
  - Attorneys for parents
  - Child placement agencies and congregate care providers
  - Child welfare agency statewide leadership
  - Child welfare agency caseworkers
  - Child welfare agency supervisors
  - Child welfare agency program managers
  - Child welfare agency regional managers
  - Commissioners and judges
  - Foster and adoptive parent licensing staff
  - Foster and adoptive parents and relative caregivers
  - Parents
  - Service providers
  - Training staff
  - Tribal representatives
  - Youth

Background Information

The Round 4 CFSR assesses state performance with regard to substantial conformity with 7 child and family outcomes and 7 systemic factors. Each outcome incorporates 1 or more of the 18 items included in the case review, and each item is rated as a Strength or Area Needing Improvement based on an evaluation of certain child welfare practices and processes in the cases reviewed in the state. With two exceptions, an item is assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90% or more of the applicable cases reviewed were rated as a

Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies to those items. For a state to be in substantial conformity with a particular outcome, 95% or more of the cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome. In addition, for Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1, the state's RSP on applicable statewide data indicators must be better than or no different than national performance. This determination for substantial conformity is based on the data profile transmitted to the state to signal the start of that state's CFSR. The state's RSP in subsequent data profiles will be factored into the determination of indicators required to be included in the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

Eighteen items are considered in assessing the state's substantial conformity with the 7 systemic factors. Each item reflects a key federal program requirement relevant to the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) for that systemic factor. An item is rated as a Strength or an Area Needing Improvement based on how well the item-specific requirement is functioning. A determination of the rating is based on information provided by the state to demonstrate the functioning of the systemic factor in the Statewide Assessment and, as needed, from interviews with stakeholders and partners. For a state to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factors, no more than 1 of the items associated with the systemic factor can be rated as an Area Needing Improvement. For systemic factors that have only 1 item associated with them, that item must be rated as a Strength for a determination of substantial conformity. An overview of the pathways to substantial conformity for the CFSR outcomes and systemic factors is in Appendix B of the Round 4 *CFSR Procedures Manual*.

The CB made several changes to the CFSR process, items, and indicators that are relevant to evaluating performance, based on lessons learned during the third round of reviews. As such, a state's performance in the fourth round of the CFSRs may not be directly comparable to its performance in the third round.

I. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

Washington 2026 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

The CB has established high standards of performance for the CFSR based on the belief that because child welfare agencies work with our country's most vulnerable children and families, only the highest standards of performance should be considered acceptable. The high standards ensure ongoing attention to achieving positive outcomes for children and families regarding safety, permanency, and well-being. This is consistent with the CFSR's goal of promoting continuous improvement in performance on these outcomes. A state must develop and implement a PIP to address the areas of concern identified for each outcome or systemic factor for which the state is found not to be in substantial conformity. The CB recognizes that the kinds of systemic and practice changes necessary to bring about improvement in some outcome areas often take time to implement. The results of this CFSR are intended to serve as the basis for continued improvement efforts addressing areas where a state still needs to improve.

Table 1 provides a quick reminder of how case review items and statewide data indicators are combined to assess substantial conformity on each outcome:

Table 1. Outcomes, Case Review Items, and Statewide Data Indicators

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
Safety Outcome 1	Item 1	Maltreatment in foster care Recurrence of maltreatment
Safety Outcome 2	Items 2 and 3	N/A

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
Permanency Outcome 1	Items 4, 5, and 6	Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more Reentry to foster care in 12 months Placement stability
Permanency Outcome 2	Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 1	Items 12, 13, 14, and 15	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 2	Item 16	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 3	Items 17 and 18	N/A

Washington was found in substantial conformity with none of the 7 outcomes.

The following 4 of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity:

- Quality Assurance System
- Staff and Provider Training
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

CB Comments on State Performance

The Washington DCYF is a cabinet-level agency that supports children, youth, and families across the state of Washington. DCYF administers child welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, early learning, and childcare licensing programs, with a focus on prevention, safety, and improved outcomes. The agency works with state and local partners, Tribes, and community organizations to keep children safe, support families during difficult times, and help children and youth build skills for success. In addition, DCYF provides oversight for licensed childcare providers, group care settings, and licensed caregivers.

In 2018, during Round 3 of the CFSR, DCYF participated in a State-Conducted Case Review. The review found that Washington's child welfare system was not in substantial conformity with federal requirements for all 7 outcomes: Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect; Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate; Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations; Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved; Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs; Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs; and Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs. The review found that the state was in substantial conformity with 3 of the 7 systemic factors: Quality Assurance; Agency Responsiveness to the Community; and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention. Washington's Round 3 CFSR Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved on June 19, 2020, with a 2-year implementation period beginning July 1, 2020. The CB later determined that the state successfully completed all required PIP strategies and achieved the associated measurement goals for 6 of the 7 outcomes. However, the state did not achieve the required level of improvement for CFSR PIP measures for Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

In Round 4, the CB found that Washington was not in substantial conformity with any of the seven outcomes and not in substantial conformity with the following three of seven systemic factors: Statewide Information System, Case Review System, Service Array and Resource Development. The state was in substantial conformity with the remaining four systemic factors: Quality Assurance System; Staff and Provider Training;

Agency Responsiveness to the Community, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

The highest-performing outcome based on case performance during the Round 4 CFSR was Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect. This outcome was Substantially Achieved in 87% of applicable cases. Case review findings demonstrated strong agency practices in timely assignment, initiation, and face-to-face contact in response to accepted reports of child maltreatment during the Period Under Review. In applicable cases, the agency frequently met the required 24-hour and 72-hour response timeframes, often completing assignment, initiation, and face-to-face contact with alleged child victims all in the same day. Strength ratings reflected appropriate use of multiple response pathways, including investigations, assessments, and Family Assessment Response. Also, concerted efforts were made to locate children in some cases when contact could not be made within the required timeframe. Safety Outcome 1 includes both case review performance and performance on statewide data indicators. Washington's performance on the Maltreatment in Foster Care and Recurrence of Maltreatment safety indicators is statistically worse than national performance.

The next highest-performing outcome was Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs, with 86% of applicable cases rated as Substantially Achieved. Case review findings demonstrated strong agency practices in assessing children's educational needs and ensuring that appropriate services and supports were provided when needed. There was ongoing monitoring of children's academic progress and coordination with children, caregivers, schools, and other providers to identify and respond to emerging concerns. Strength ratings reflected efforts to address school attendance and truancy; academic performance and credit recovery; developmental and speech delays; and social, emotional, and behavioral concerns affecting education. Case review findings also identified appropriate efforts to develop and monitor Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and 504 plans and secure specialized instruction, educational advocacy, and other supports. In several cases, these efforts helped promote school stability, access to specialized services, and progress toward identified educational goals.

Safety Outcome 2, which evaluates whether children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate, was rated as substantially achieved in 59% of applicable cases. Performance was stronger for Item 2, Services to Families to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care, with 68% of applicable cases rated as a Strength, compared with 59% for Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management. For Item 2, case review findings demonstrated agency efforts to provide services and supports to address identified safety and risk concerns and maintain children safely in their homes or prevent re-entry into foster care. Strength ratings reflected the use of intensive in-home and family preservation services, substance use and mental health treatment, parenting education, safety planning, and concrete supports such as housing, child care, transportation, and assistance with basic needs. Also, there was agency coordination with service providers, relatives, and other supports to stabilize families and respond to changing safety and risk concerns, including during reunification and trial home visits. Challenges included services not provided or insufficient to address identified or emerging safety and risk concerns, such as concerns related to substance use, domestic violence, mental health, and caregiver protective capacities. There were also challenges when needed services were identified but not initiated or adjusted as circumstances changed.

Strength ratings for Item 3 reflect ongoing formal and informal assessment of children's safety through face-to-face contact with children and caregivers, private conversations with children when appropriate, observation of home and placement environments and caregiver-child interactions, collateral contacts, and formal safety and risk assessments. Practice challenges primarily involved the comprehensiveness and frequency of ongoing assessment, including insufficient assessment of relevant children, caregivers, household members, and other environments in which children resided or spent significant time; failure to fully explore emerging concerns such as substance use issues, domestic violence, mental health, or caregiver protective capacities; or not reassessing safety and risk at critical case junctures, including changes in living arrangements, reunification or trial home visits, and case closure. Also, there were instances in which safety plans were not sufficiently developed or monitored and emerging information was not adequately incorporated into ongoing safety assessment and case decision-making. Performance also varied by case type, with 64% of foster care cases

rated as a Strength compared with 52% of in-home services/in-home services-differential response/alternative response cases. Overall, case review findings demonstrated areas of strength in the agency's assessment and management of risk and safety; however, greater consistency is needed across both in-home and foster care settings.

Permanency Outcome 1 evaluates whether children in foster care experience permanency and stability in their living situations. Thirteen percent of foster care cases were rated as Substantially Achieved. Placement stability results reflected positive practice, with 74% of children experiencing either one stable placement or only planned moves during the review period (Item 4). Most unplanned moves were driven by safety concerns in the home, use of temporary placements, or a child's mental and behavioral health needs requiring a different placement. Permanency and concurrent goals were established in a timely manner and aligned with the child's needs in 42% of cases (Item 5). In the remaining cases, permanency planning was delayed. In some instances, adoption was not pursued until nearly 2 years or more into the case. In others, reunification remained the goal despite limited parental progress or a parental preference for an alternative permanency arrangement—children in these cases had been in care an average of 23 months. In several other cases, a guardianship or adoption goal was not added until an average of 20 months after removal. The outcome's overall rating was largely driven by limited coordinated agency and court efforts toward timely permanency, with 15% of cases receiving positive ratings in this area (Item 6). Reunification cases experienced delays due to inconsistent agency efforts to engage parents and address barriers to their participation. Although concurrent plans were in place in just over half of these cases, efforts toward the concurrent plan were limited in several cases. Permanency goals appeared to be pursued consecutively rather than simultaneously. Hearings were continued or not scheduled for months in several cases. Termination of parental rights (TPR) took one or more years in several cases due to late filing of TPR petitions, delays in scheduling hearings, and waiting for voluntary relinquishments. For several children for whom adoption or guardianship was the permanency plan, delays in completing the necessary paperwork or limited action once paperwork was submitted further postponed finalization. Agency, legal, and judicial professionals all play a key role in ensuring that children achieve timely permanency.

Permanency Outcome 2, which assesses whether the continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children, was rated as Substantially Achieved in 69% of applicable foster care cases. Case review findings pointed to comparatively strong practice in maintaining children's family relationships and important connections while in care. Item 8, Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care, was the highest-performing item, with 90% of applicable cases rated as a Strength. This reflected efforts to provide frequent and meaningful visitation tailored to each's family circumstances through in-person, virtual, and telephone contact as well as less restrictive visitation when appropriate, and transportation and other supports. Item 7, Placement With Siblings, also performed well at 84%, as did Item 9, Preserving Connections, at 82%, reflecting efforts to place siblings together when appropriate and to maintain children's connections with extended family, schools, communities, Tribes, culture, faith, and other important relationships. Practice challenges emerged when separated siblings were not sufficiently considered for placement together or when important family and community connections were not actively maintained. Performance was lower for Item 10, Relative Placement, rated as a Strength in 72% of cases, and Item 11, Relationship of Child in Care With Parents, rated as a Strength in 57% of applicable cases. Practice challenges in Item 10 primarily reflected inconsistent ongoing efforts to identify, locate, inform, and evaluate maternal and paternal relatives, including failure to recontact or reassess previously identified relatives as potential placement resources when circumstances changed. For Item 11, practice challenges frequently reflected missed opportunities to engage parents in their children's lives beyond visitation, including participation in medical and dental appointments, school and IEP meetings, therapy, and other activities. Overall, findings demonstrated stronger practice in supporting visitation and preserving children's family and community connections, while greater consistency is needed in ongoing relative search and engagement and in supporting parents' involvement in their children's lives beyond visitation.

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs, was rated as substantially achieved in 50% of cases. Performance on Item 12 (Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents) significantly affected the outcome rating, with 50% of cases rated as a Strength. Performance varied across Item 12 sub-items. Sub-Item 12A, Needs Assessment and Services to Children, was the

strongest-performing component, with 80% of cases rated as a Strength, reflecting generally effective assessment of children's needs and provision of services to address identified needs. Sub-Item 12C, Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents, was rated as a Strength in 73% of applicable cases, reflecting comparatively strong practice in assessing foster and pre-adoptive parents' needs and providing supports related to caring for children in their care. Performance was lower for Sub-Item 12B, Needs Assessment and Services to Parents, which was rated as a Strength in 53% of applicable cases. Case review findings showed stronger performance in assessing and addressing the needs of mothers than fathers. Concerted efforts to both assess and address mothers' needs were demonstrated in 63% of applicable cases, compared with 43% for fathers. There were challenges with comprehensive and ongoing assessments of parents' needs, particularly for fathers, including limited face-to-face contact, insufficient efforts to engage or locate fathers, and failure to fully assess needs related to parenting, substance use, mental health, domestic violence, and other circumstances affecting family functioning. In some cases, needs were identified but appropriate services were delayed, not initiated, or not sufficiently tailored to address identified barriers.

Performance on the remaining Well-Being Outcome 1 items also reflected variability in family engagement and caseworker contact. Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, was rated as a Strength in 61% of applicable cases. Within Item 13, performance was stronger for involving children and mothers in case planning than fathers: the agency made concerted efforts to involve children in 81% of applicable cases and mothers in 77%, compared with 53% for fathers. Item 14, Caseworker Visits With Children, was rated as a Strength in 72% of cases, with the frequency of visits rated sufficient in 86% and the quality of visits sufficient in 80% of cases. Item 15, Caseworker Visits With Parents, was rated as a Strength in 52% of applicable cases and further reflected differences in engagement with mothers and fathers. Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visits were sufficient for mothers in 62% of applicable cases, compared with 41% for fathers.

Overall, case review findings demonstrated stronger practice in assessing and addressing children's needs and comparatively stronger engagement with mothers than fathers. Greater consistency is needed in comprehensive assessment, service provision, case planning, and caseworker contact with parents, particularly fathers, to ensure that the needs of all family members are identified and addressed throughout the life of the case.

Well-Being Outcome 3 assesses the agency's concerted efforts to assess and provide services to meet children's physical, dental, and mental/behavioral health needs. The outcome was rated as Substantially Achieved in 64% of applicable cases, with Item 17, Physical Health of the Child, rated as a Strength in 72% of applicable cases and Item 18, Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child, in 62%. For Item 17, performance was stronger in in-home services cases (86%) than in foster care cases (67%); for Item 18, performance was fairly similar for in-home services cases (64%) and foster care cases (61%). Case review findings identified strengths in the ongoing assessment of children's health needs, coordination with medical and behavioral health providers, provision of routine and specialized services, and medication oversight. Factors negatively affecting performance included delays or gaps in medical and dental care, insufficient follow-through on referrals and identified dental needs, incomplete assessment of some behavioral or substance use concerns, and gaps in behavioral health services. Overall, findings indicated stronger performance in assessing and addressing children's physical health needs, while timely follow-through on dental needs and consistent provision and monitoring of services for identified mental/behavioral health needs were areas of concern.

Service Array and Resource Development is a systemic factor that directly influences safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families. Washington has a broad range of services, including in-home and family preservation services, parenting programs, substance use and mental health services, and concrete supports. Yet, availability and accessibility vary across the state, particularly in rural and remote areas. Waitlists, provider shortages and turnover, reimbursement challenges, transportation and housing barriers, and inconsistent staff knowledge of available resources hinder timely access. Notable gaps remain in specialized evaluations, behavioral health services, domestic violence and substance use treatment, visitation services, and supports for children and families with complex or specialized needs. Insufficient placement capacity, especially for therapeutic foster homes, older youth, and children with higher needs, contributed to out-of-county placements and prolonged stays in higher levels of care while children await appropriate step-down options.

Individualizing services to families' cultural, linguistic, developmental, and disability-related needs presents additional challenges. Limited access to bilingual and culturally responsive providers and specialized services was a common concern. Tribal partners were identified as important resources for culturally responsive services, although Tribes sometimes carried much of the responsibility for identifying or providing those services. Washington has several mechanisms to support service access and individualization—including regional Service Array Consultants, the Provider Dashboard, partnerships with Tribes and community providers, and flexible funding for concrete needs—but awareness and use of these resources varied. Overall, there is a need for a more consistent, available, accessible, and individualized service array across the state. Addressing identified gaps through data-informed analysis of service needs, waitlists, utilization, provider capacity, and performance, together with ongoing collaboration with agency, Tribal, provider, and community partners, will be important to improve outcomes for children and families in Washington.

An additional systemic challenge was identified related to the Case Review System. Although Washington has established processes for case planning, periodic reviews, and permanency hearings, these processes are not consistently functioning statewide. Challenges include meaningful joint case planning with parents and timely initial periodic reviews and initial permanency hearings.

The CB encourages Washington, in developing its PIP, to leverage the flexibilities afforded under Technical Bulletin (TB) #14 to organize its program improvement efforts around a cohesive, outcome-driven strategy focused on strengthening the continuum of family-based care and achieving and sustaining a 1:1 ratio of licensed foster homes to children in foster care. Within this broader framework, Washington can address interconnected practice and systemic barriers identified through the CFSR that affect the state's ability to safely maintain children with families, support stable and appropriate family-based placements, and achieve timely permanency. This approach would directly address identified gaps in family-based placement resources, particularly for older youth, sibling groups, and children with higher behavioral, developmental, or mental health needs, while reducing reliance on out-of-county placements and extended stays in higher levels of care. This approach is consistent with the intent of TB #14 to reduce administrative burden, strengthen continuous quality improvement, and focus state and federal partnerships on building and sustaining the capacity necessary to ensure that every child in Washington has access to a safe, stable, and appropriate family home.

II. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO OUTCOMES

For each outcome, we provide the state's performance on the applicable statewide data indicators from the data profile that was transmitted to the state to signal the launch of the CFSR and performance summaries from the case review findings of the onsite review. CFSR statewide data indicators provide performance information on states' child safety and permanency outcomes. The statewide data indicators are aggregate measures calculated using information that states report to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). For general information on the statewide data indicators and their use, see the National Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement page, https://ncwcia.childwelfare.gov/. For a detailed description of the statewide data indicators, see CFSR Technical Bulletin #13A, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/training-technical-assistance/cfsr-technical-bulletin-13a. Results have been rounded to the nearest whole number. A summary of the state's performance for all outcomes and systemic factors is in Appendix A. Additional information on case review findings, including the state's performance on case review item rating questions, is in the state's practice performance report in Appendix B.

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

The state's policy requires that DCYF conduct in-person initial face-to-face contact with victims or identified children/youth within 24 hours for emergent responses and 72 hours for non-emergent responses after intake receipt.

Statewide Data Indicators

The chart below shows the state's performance from the from the time covered in the August 2025 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

Figure 1. State's Performance on Safety Outcome 1 Indicators

Case Review

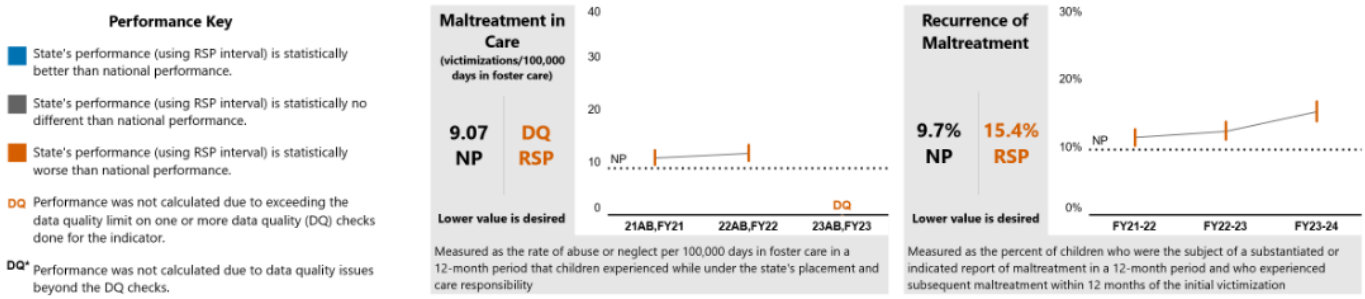
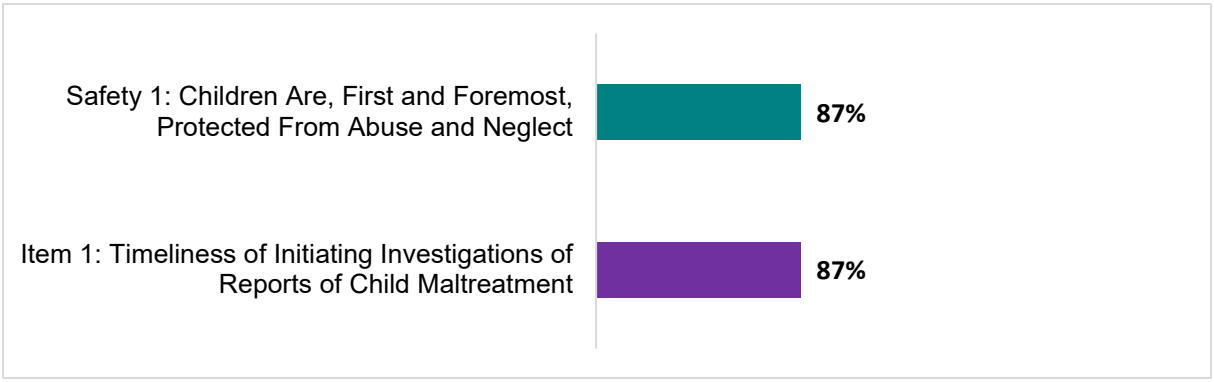


Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 1:

- The state's performance on the "maltreatment in foster care" data indicator was not calculated due to data quality.
- The state's performance on the "recurrence of maltreatment" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 1.

Notable Changes and Observations in Performance on the Safety Outcome 1 Data Indicators During Round 4

Table 2. Risk-Standardized Performance Compared to National Performance—Safety 1 Data Indicators

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	February 2026 Profile	August 2026 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Maltreatment in Foster Care	Not calculated due to Data Quality (DQ)	DQ	DQ	Yes
Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes

All results reported here are based on the August 2026 data profile and supplementary context data and may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 2, which shows performance as of the August 2025 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment (SWA), and whose latest reporting periods were used to determine substantial conformity.

Washington's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) on Maltreatment in Foster Care was initially worse than national performance at the time of the SWA; however, the most recently available data for that time period has been updated as unable to be calculated due to data quality concerns. For Recurrence of Maltreatment, the state's RSP continues to worsen.

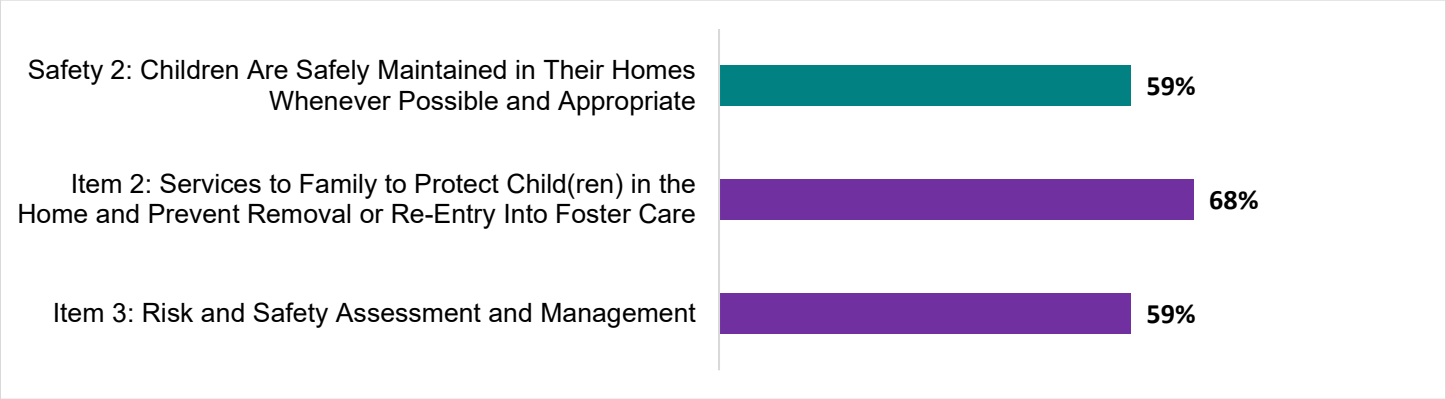
- Since Fiscal Year (FY) 21–22, the total number of initial maltreatment reports in the state has decreased overall; however, the number of subsequent maltreatment reports has increased year-over-year by nearly 50%, resulting in the percentage of children experiencing a subsequent maltreatment report increasing from 8.8% to 13.5% in FY 24–25.
- All age groups reported worsening recurrence of maltreatment performance over the last 3 reporting years. Children aged 5 years or younger accounted for nearly half of all initial victims, and this group had both the highest recurrence in FY 24–25 (16.4%) and the largest overall increase in recurrence compared to FY 22–23 with a 69% increase.
- Of note, children aged 6 to 10 years accounted for a quarter of all initial and subsequent victimizations in the state, but over the last 3 reporting years, recurrence of maltreatment for this group only increased by 4%—compared to a minimum of 32% across all other age categories.
- The top 10 counties account for three-quarters of all initial victims in the state, and all reported an increase in recurrence except for one: Snohomish County, whose performance improved from 11.1% to 9.0% over the last 3 reporting years. In contrast, recurrence of maltreatment tripled in Pierce County (5.8% to 18.6%), which reported the second-largest child population and the third-most initial victimizations in the state.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 2 and 3.

Case Review

Figure 3. Performance on Safety Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 2:

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 2.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 3.

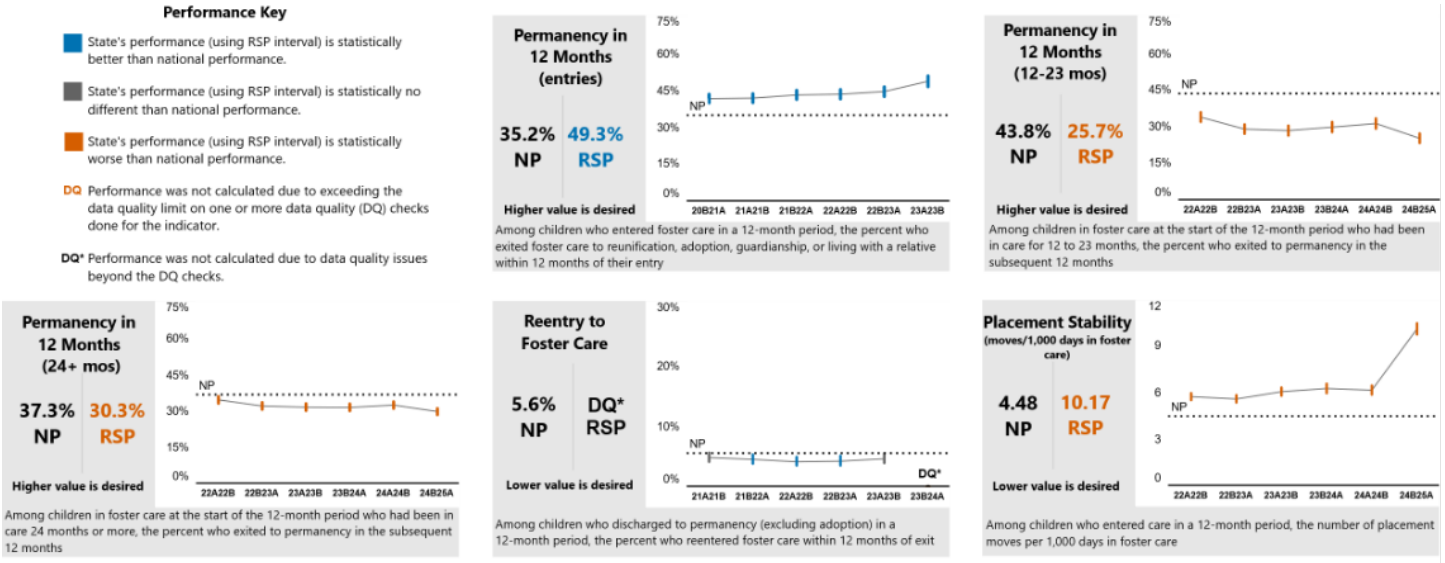
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on 5 statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Items 4, 5, and 6.

Statewide Data Indicators

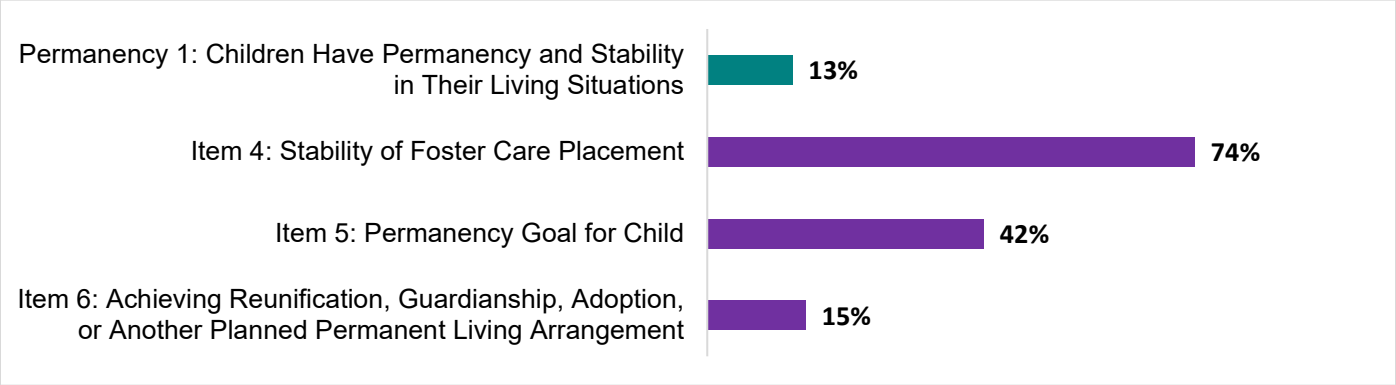
The chart below shows the state's performance from the time covered in the August 2025 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

Figure 4. State's Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 Indicators



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 1:

- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care" data indicator was not calculated due to data quality.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months" data indicator was not calculated due to data quality.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more" data indicator was not calculated due to data quality.
- The state's performance on the "reentry to foster care in 12 months" data indicator was not calculated due to data quality.
- The state's performance on the "placement stability" data indicator was not calculated due to data quality.
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 4.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 5.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 6.

Notable Changes and Observations in Performance on the Permanency Outcome 1 Data Indicators During Round 4

Table 3. Risk-Standardized Performance Compared to National Performance—Permanency 1 Data Indicators

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	February 2026 Profile	August 2026 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Better	Not calculated due to Data Quality (DQ)	DQ	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12–23 months	Worse	DQ	Worse	Yes

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	February 2026 Profile	August 2026 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Worse	DQ	No Different	No
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	DQ	DQ	DQ	Yes
Placement stability	Worse	DQ	Worse	Yes

All results reported here are based on the August 2026 data profile and supplementary context data and may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 3, which shows performance as of the August 2025 data profile and was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment, and whose latest reporting periods were used to determine substantial conformity.

At the time of the SWA, Washington's RSP for Permanency in 12 months among children entering care was statistically better than national performance. The state's performance on Permanency in 12 months among children in care 12–23 months and 24 or more months was unable to be calculated due to data quality concerns but was most recently below national performance and trending downward. However, updated data on the August 2026 data profile reported a slight improvement in achieving permanency among children in care 12–23 months and a RSP of no different than national performance among children in care 24 months or more.

- The number of children in care in the state decreased over the last 6 reporting periods. The number of children in care 12–23 months decreased by more than half, and the number of children in care 24 months or more decreased by nearly one-third.
- Among children in care 12–23 months, Washington reported the biggest improvement among children aged 6–10 years, who accounted for a quarter of all children in this population and whose permanency performance improved by 21% over the last 3 reporting years.
- Washington reported improving performance among White and Hispanic children (by 5% and 17%, respectively), who accounted for nearly three-quarters of all children in care 12–23 months. However, declining permanency among children categorized as Black and Two or More Races (by 12% and 46%, respectively) resulted in essentially no change in overall performance.
- Among children in care 24 months or more, the state's improvement in performance was reflected across every age group, especially among children aged 11–16 years, whose performance increased by 26%, with from 26.2% to 33.0% of these youth achieving permanency within 12 months.

Historically, Washington's performance on Reentry to Foster Care had been no different or better than national performance. Yet, due to data quality issues regarding how placements are reported in AFCARS, the CB was unable to calculate Washington's performance for 5 of the last 6 reporting periods, including the period transmitted with the state's SWA.

Washington's performance on Placement Stability during the SWA was initially unable to be calculated due to data quality concerns. However, the most recently available data reported a very notable increase in Placement Stability, increasing from 5.78 moves per 1,000 days in care to 9.52 moves from one reporting period to the next and remaining at 9.92 moves currently.

- While the number of total days in care has declined by 12%, the number of moves has increased by 55% over the last 6 reporting periods.

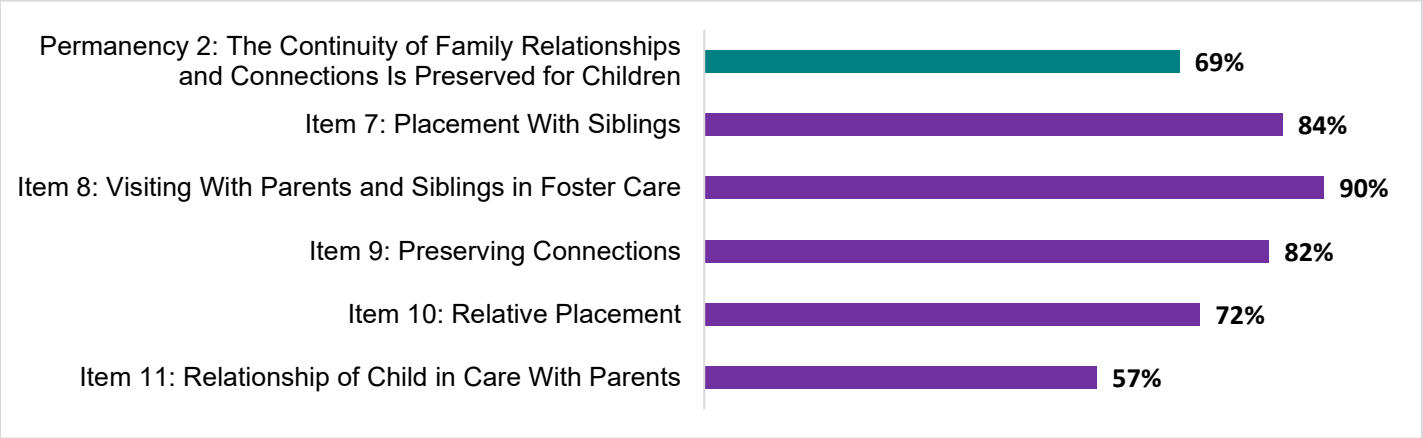
- This increase was driven largely by children less than 1 year old. Accounting for 30% of all days children spend in care in the state, the rate of placement moves in this group tripled over the last 3 reporting years from 2.61 moves/1,000 days to 7.80 moves.
- Eight counties accounted for two-thirds of all foster care days in the state. Only one (Cowlitz County) reported a decrease in the rate of placement moves, while all others reported double-digit increases in the rate of moves, including the top three by total days in care: King County (46% increase), Spokane County (92% increase), and Pierce County (45% increase).

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

Case Review

Figure 6. Performance on Permanency Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 2:

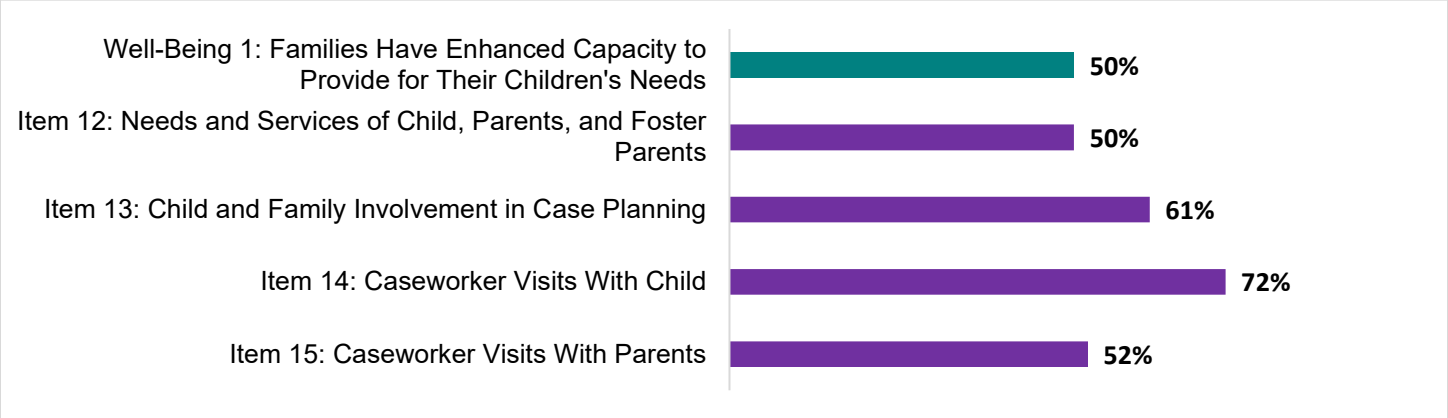
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
  - More than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 10.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 11.

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Case Review

Figure 7. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 1:

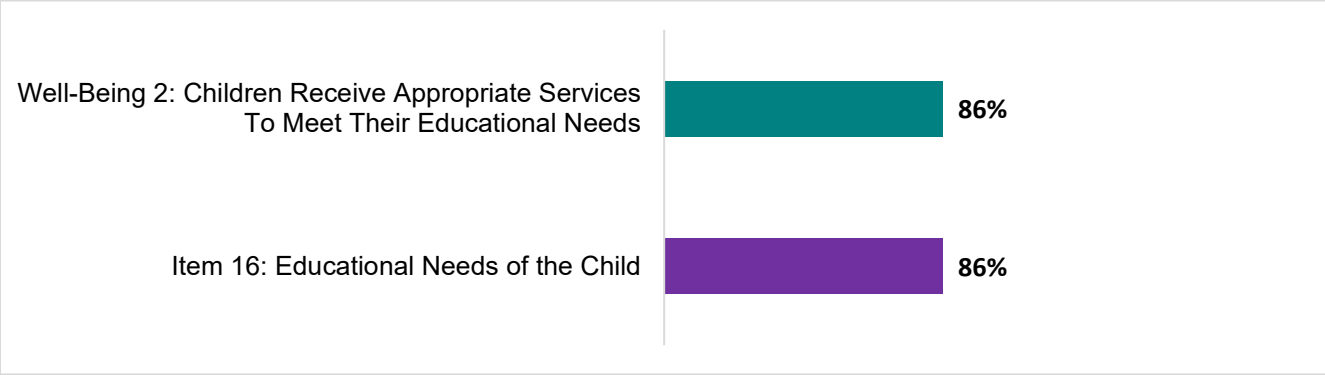
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12C.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 13.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 14.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 15.

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Item 16.

Case Review

Figure 8. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 2:

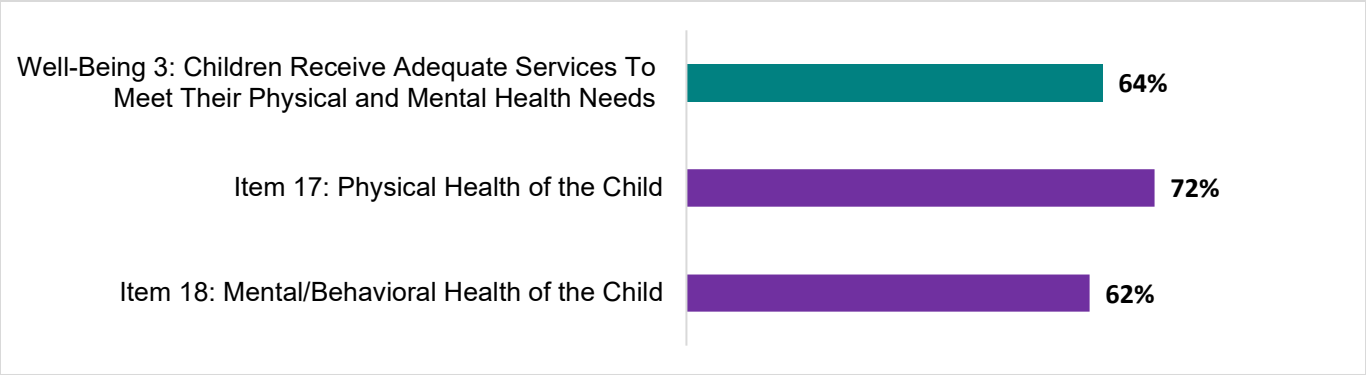
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 17 and 18.

Case Review

Figure 9. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 3 and Supporting Items



Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 3:

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 17.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 18.

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity with federal requirements for the 7 systemic factors based on the level of functioning of each systemic factor across the state. The CB determines substantial conformity with the systemic factors based on ratings for the item or items within each factor. Performance on 5 of the 7 systemic factors is determined based on ratings for multiple items or plan requirements. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with these systemic factors, the CB must find that no more than 1 of the required items for that systemic factor fails to function as required. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with the 2 systemic factors that are determined based on the rating of a single item, the CB must find that the item is functioning as required. For each systemic factor below, we provide performance summaries and a determination of whether the state is in substantial conformity with that systemic factor. In addition, we provide ratings for each item.

Statewide Information System

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Item 19.

Item	Rating
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Area Needing Improvement

Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Statewide Information System.

Item 19: Statewide Information System

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The statewide information system is functioning statewide to ensure that, at a minimum, the state can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or, within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care.

- Washington received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Washington has an operational statewide information system and increasingly robust QA mechanisms, but direct validation demonstrates material inaccuracies and regional variation in three of the four required elements (legal status, permanency goals, and placement location). Placement information is not consistently entered timely, and no information was provided regarding timely entry for legal status, demographic characteristics, or permanency goals. Therefore, the evidence does not establish that all four elements are readily and reliably identifiable for children in foster care statewide.

Case Review System

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Items	Rating
Item 20: Written Case Plan	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21: Periodic Reviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 22: Permanency Hearings	Area Needing Improvement
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Area Needing Improvement

Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Case Review System.

Item 20: Written Case Plan

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parent(s) and includes the required provisions.

- Washington received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information submitted did not demonstrate that children in foster care have written case plans that are routinely developed jointly with the child's parents, as required by Washington's policies and practices. There is a lack of statewide quantitative evidence of parent participation in case plan development, and qualitative evidence indicates that meaningful parent participation remains inconsistent. Washington has implemented new family-centered planning tools that demonstrate an improvement in joint development; however, these tools are not yet sufficiently implemented statewide to demonstrate routine functioning.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that a periodic review for each child occurs no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review.

- Washington received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided does not demonstrate that initial periodic reviews are routinely held for children in foster care 6 months from their entry into foster care. Court congestion and attorney scheduling conflicts sometimes contribute to scheduling delays early in the dependency court process. However, subsequent periodic reviews are routinely held every 6 months thereafter.

Item 22: Permanency Hearings

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body that occurs no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

- Washington received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided does not demonstrate that initial permanency hearings are routinely held for children in foster care 12 months from their entry into foster care. Court congestion and attorney availability can contribute to scheduling delays early in the dependency court process. However, subsequent permanency hearings are routinely held every 12 months thereafter.

Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that the filing of termination of parental rights proceedings occurs in accordance with required provisions.

- Washington received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided does not demonstrate that termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions are routinely filed in accordance with federal timeframes. Additionally, Washington does not have processes to ensure that TPR petitions are filed in accordance with federal law or to track exceptions, including documentation of compelling reasons not to file.

Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning to ensure that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are notified of, and have a right to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child.

- Washington received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Washington has multiple notice mechanisms; however, the evidence does not demonstrate that required notice to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of periodic reviews and permanency hearings, including language in the notice of the right to be heard, is routinely provided statewide. The state does not have a tracking system to monitor whether notices are issued and whether the notice includes information about their right to be heard.

Quality Assurance System

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Item 25.

Item	Rating
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Strength

Washington was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Quality Assurance System.

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The quality assurance system is functioning statewide to ensure that it (1) is operating in the jurisdictions where the services included in the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) are provided, (2) has standards to evaluate the quality of services (including standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect their health and safety), (3) identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, (4) provides relevant reports, and (5) evaluates implemented program improvement measures.

- Washington received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Washington provided substantial evidence that its QA/CQI system is functioning statewide across all five required QA functions. The state uses multiple quantitative and qualitative data sources, applies established quality and safety standards, identifies strengths and needs, reports findings to decision-makers, and demonstrates actual repeat-measurement feedback loops through targeted reviews, trend monitoring, and CQI follow-up.

Staff and Provider Training

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 26, 27, and 28.

Items	Rating
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Strength
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Strength
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Strength

Washington was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Staff and Provider Training.

Item 26: Initial Staff Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that initial training is provided to all staff who deliver services pursuant to the CFSP that includes the basic skills and knowledge required for their positions.

- Washington received an overall rating of Strength for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Washington has a well-established and standardized statewide initial training system, with most required Regional Core Training participants completing training during FFY 2025, consistent curriculum delivery, and specialized onboarding for licensing staff. Training content is routinely revised and incorporates trauma-informed practice, safety and risk assessment, cultural humility, family engagement, and other foundational child welfare competencies. Although Washington needs stronger regional and program-specific data on training timeliness, the available evidence demonstrates that the initial training system is routinely functioning statewide and provides staff with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to perform their duties.

Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that ongoing training is provided for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to the services included in the CFSP.

- Washington received an overall rating of Strength for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Washington has established a statewide ongoing-training infrastructure that provides mandatory, advanced, supervisory, and specialized learning opportunities and can identify whether individual staff have completed assigned training. The state demonstrated that ongoing training is regularly adapted in response to policy changes, case review findings, emerging safety concerns, and workforce needs, and provided numerous examples of mandatory training delivered during 2025. While Washington continues to strengthen ongoing training requirements beyond the initial years of employment and needs improved data regarding regional compliance, continuing-education hours, provider participation, and transfer of learning into practice, the available evidence supports that ongoing training is routinely available, monitored, and responsive to identified workforce needs statewide.

Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that training is occurring statewide for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of state licensed or approved facilities (that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E) that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to foster and adopted children.

- Washington received an overall rating of Strength for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Washington has established statewide initial and ongoing training requirements and monitoring processes for foster and adoptive parents and applicable facility staff. Nearly all foster and adoptive parents complete required initial training before licensure, most completed ongoing training by re-licensure, and caregivers who do not complete requirements timely are placed on monitored compliance agreements. The processes for monitoring facility staff training include evidence of training effectiveness, such as Caregiver Core post-assessments and caregiver survey results showing that most respondents reported that training adequately prepared them to care for children and youth. Although opportunities remain to strengthen centralized tracking for some populations and expand advanced training for experienced caregivers and caregivers serving children with higher needs, these concerns do not outweigh the evidence that the training system is functioning statewide.

Service Array and Resource Development

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 29 and 30.

Items	Rating
Item 29: Array of Services	Area Needing Improvement
Item 30: Individualizing Services	Area Needing Improvement

Washington was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Service Array and Resource Development.

Item 29: Array of Services

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The service array and resource development system is functioning to ensure that the following array of services is accessible in all political jurisdictions covered by the CFSP: (1) services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs, (2) services that address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment, (3) services that enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and (4) services that help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.

- Washington received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence provided do not demonstrate that Washington has an adequate array of services accessible to children and families in all jurisdictions of the state. Washington has undertaken significant efforts to strengthen its service array, provider capacity, and monitoring processes. However, service access varies by location, with rural and geographically isolated communities generally experiencing fewer service options and greater access barriers. Gaps and waitlists were identified for behavioral and mental health services, psychological and neuropsychological evaluations, domestic violence services, substance use disorder treatment, intensive in-home and reunification services, housing, child care, transportation, and culturally and linguistically responsive services. There are shortages of foster and therapeutic placement resources, particularly for older youth, sibling groups, and children and youth with complex behavioral health needs.

Item 30: Individualizing Services

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The service array and resource development system is functioning statewide to ensure that the services in Item 29 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.

- Washington received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence provided do not demonstrate that the service array and resource development system is functioning statewide to ensure services can routinely be individualized to meet the unique needs of the children and families served by the state. Washington has established mechanisms to individualize services, including assessment and service-matching processes, culturally specific and Tribal services, interpreter services, flexible funding, community partnerships, and flexible service delivery options such as telehealth. The state has effective collaborations with Tribes to support the individualization of services. The state also has worked to improve the individualization of services for parents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. However, individualization frequently depends on geographic location, worker knowledge and advocacy, provider availability, and access to specialized resources. Challenges remain in providing linguistically responsive services, services responsive to disabilities and developmental needs, specialized behavioral and mental health services,

and appropriately matched services for children and families with complex needs. These challenges are compounded by service availability and accessibility limitations.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 31 and 32.

Items	Rating
Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR	Strength
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Strength

Washington was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that, in implementing the provisions of the CFSP and developing related Annual Progress and Services Reports (APSRs), the state engages in ongoing consultation with Tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies and includes the major concerns of these representatives in the goals, objectives, and annual updates of the CFSP.

- Washington received an overall rating of Strength for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Washington demonstrates an established, ongoing, multi-level consultation system involving stakeholder groups pursuant to the CFSP and APSR. Consultation occurs through standing advisory groups, regional structures, court partnerships, provider collaboratives, Tribal engagement, participant groups, and project-specific processes. The evidence demonstrates that stakeholder input has identifiable connections to policy, rulemaking, training, service planning, system modernization, and CFSP/APSR development. Washington has also strengthened this infrastructure since Round 3 through an agency Community Engagement Framework and Toolkit, compensation for community contributors, expanded advisory structures, and clearer expectations concerning transparency and feedback loops. The data and evidence support that stakeholder engagement and consultation is established, ongoing, and functioning across the state.

Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state's services under the CFSP are coordinated with services or benefits of other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population.

- Washington received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Washington demonstrated an intentional statewide architecture linking child welfare to Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Housing and Urban Development-related housing, education, Supplemental Security Income, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, behavioral health, and other federal/federally assisted systems. Washington provided numerous concrete examples showing how coordination produces better access to health care, economic support, housing, education continuity, and transition services serving the same population.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 33, 34, 35, and 36.

Items	Rating
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Strength
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Strength
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Strength
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Area Needing Improvement

Washington was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

Item 33: Standards Applied Equally

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that state standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds.

- Washington received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Washington has statewide licensing standards and processes supported by Washington Administrative Code (WAC) requirements, standardized licensing and relicensing checklists, the Washington Caregiver Application Portal and FamLink, supervisory review, health and safety monitoring, corrective action processes, and statewide oversight. Standardized monitoring tools are used across regions, health and safety activities are centrally tracked, and supervisory reviews occur consistently across regions. The standardized checklists are reviewed by supervisors and area administrators who routinely review licensing violations and implementation issues. Statewide procedures and FamLink monitoring data guide the process, and homes are processed through the same electronic system using standard checklists and WAC requirements, indicating that restructuring licensing from a regional to a statewide structure has increased consistency and reduced individual interpretation of standards.

Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state complies with federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children.

- Washington received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Washington has a comprehensive statewide process for meeting federal criminal background clearance requirements, including fingerprint-based criminal history checks, state and out-of-state child abuse and neglect registry checks, review of child welfare and licensing information, individualized suitability assessments, licensing verification, and ongoing monitoring. The state also provided data demonstrating routine functioning of the suitability assessment process and described monitoring mechanisms for ensuring continued compliance, including quarterly review of group-care staff background-check status. There is coordination among child welfare, intake/Child Protective Services, and licensing staff to assess and respond to safety concerns, including investigations, case staffing, family meetings, licensing actions, and placement decisions when appropriate. Although some concerns were identified regarding communication and information-sharing when safety issues arise,

the evidence does not indicate that these concerns prevent the background-clearance and placement-safety processes from routinely functioning statewide.

Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed is occurring statewide.

- Washington received an overall rating of Strength for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Washington has a statewide diligent recruitment structure that uses recruitment data, targeted outreach, statewide recruitment strategies, partnerships with Tribes and community organizations, and multiple recruitment mechanisms to identify prospective foster and adoptive families. Washington routinely compares caregiver race and ethnicity data with the racial and ethnic characteristics of children and youth in out-of-home care to identify gaps and inform recruitment activities.

Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children is occurring statewide.

- Washington received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Washington has an established cross-jurisdictional infrastructure and has made meaningful improvements since Round 3. Implementation of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), the Northwest Adoption Exchange, AdoptUSKids, Wendy's Wonderful Kids®, the Oregon border agreement, Purchase of Services contracts, legally-free-child tracking, and the forthcoming National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise demonstrate substantial system capacity. Washington also improved incoming ICPC 60-day performance in the current assessment period. However, the evidence does not demonstrate consistent statewide effectiveness. The state did not consistently complete incoming ICPC home-study requests within 60 days. Additionally, the state does not report data on the proportion of all waiting children who achieve permanent placement through cross-jurisdictional resources; caseworker and supervisor follow-up on ICPC records is inconsistent; and data on delays, withdrawals, placement timelines, and long-term permanency outcomes are incomplete. Accordingly, the evidence demonstrates a system that has improved but does not yet function effectively and consistently statewide to support a Strength rating.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Washington 2026 Child and Family Services Review Performance

I. Ratings for Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Outcomes and Items and Performance on Statewide Data Indicators

Outcome Achievement: Outcomes may be rated as in substantial conformity or not in substantial conformity. 95% of the applicable cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome for the state to be in substantial conformity with the outcome.

Item Achievement: Items may be rated as a Strength or as an Area Needing Improvement. For an overall rating of Strength, 90% of the cases reviewed for the item (with the exception of Item 1 and Item 16) must be rated as a Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies.

Statewide Data Indicators: For Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1, the state's performance is also considered against the national performance for each statewide data indicator. State performance may be statistically better, worse, or no different than the national performance. If a state did not provide the required data or did not meet the applicable item data quality limits, the CB did not calculate the state's performance for the statewide data indicator.

RSP (Risk-Standardized Performance) is derived from a multi-level statistical model, reflects the state's performance relative to states with similar children, and takes into account the number of children the state served, the age distribution of these children and, for some indicators, the state's entry rate. It uses risk adjustment to minimize differences in outcomes due to factors over which the state has little control and provides a fairer comparison of state performance against national performance.

RSP Interval is the 95% confidence interval estimate for the state's RSP. The values shown are the lower RSP and upper RSP of the interval estimate. The interval accounts for the amount of uncertainty associated with the RSP. For example, the CB is 95% confident that the true value of the RSP is between the lower and upper limit of the interval.

Data Period(s) Used refers to the initial 12-month period and the period(s) of data needed to follow the children to observe their outcomes. The FY or federal fiscal year refers to NCANDS data, which spans the 12-month period October 1–September 30. All other periods refer to AFCARS data. "A" refers to the 6-month period October 1–March 31. "B" refers to the 6-month period April 1–September 30. The 2-digit year refers to the calendar year in which the period ends.

SAFETY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, PROTECTED FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	Not in Substantial Conformity	87% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	87% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care)	9.07	Not calculated due to Data Quality (DQ)	Lower	DQ	DQ	23A–23B, FY23–24
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	15.4%	14.0%–16.9%	FY23–24

SAFETY OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE SAFELY MAINTAINED IN THEIR HOMES WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	59% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	59% Strength

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE PERMANENCY AND STABILITY IN THEIR LIVING SITUATIONS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	Not in Substantial Conformity	13% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	74% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	42% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	15% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care	35.2%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	49.3%	47.1%–51.5%	23A–25A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Worse Than National Performance	Higher	25.7%	23.8%–27.7%	24B–25A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Worse Than National Performance	Higher	30.3%	29.0%–31.6%	24B–25A
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	Not calculated due to Data Quality (DQ)	Lower	DQ	DQ	23B-25A
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	10.17	9.81–10.54	24B–25A

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 2: THE CONTINUITY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS IS PRESERVED FOR CHILDREN.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	Not in Substantial Conformity	69% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	84% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Strength	90% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	82% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	72% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	57% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1: FAMILIES HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	50% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	50% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	80% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	53% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	73% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	61% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	72% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	52% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	86% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	86% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN RECEIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	64% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	72% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	62% Strength

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity with federal requirements for the 7 systemic factors based on the level of functioning of each systemic factor across the state. The CB determines substantial conformity with the

systemic factors based on ratings for the item or items within each factor. Performance on 5 of the 7 systemic factors is determined on the basis of ratings for multiple items or plan requirements. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with these systemic factors, the CB must find that no more than 1 of the required items for that systemic factor fails to function as required. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with the 2 systemic factors that are determined based on the rating of a single item, the CB must find that the item is functioning as required.

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Case Review System	Statewide Assessment	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 20: Written Case Plan	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21: Periodic Reviews	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 22: Permanency Hearings	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment	Substantial Conformity
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment	Strength

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Staff and Provider Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Service Array and Resource Development	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 29: Array of Services	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 30: Individualizing Services	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Agency Responsiveness to the Community	Statewide Assessment	Substantial Conformity
Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Statewide Assessment	Strength

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT
Washington CFSR (CB-Led) 2026

The Practice Performance Report provides an aggregated summary of practice performance for all 18 items in the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) for all approved and final cases from all the sites in the Washington CFSR (CB-Led) and includes a breakdown of performance by case type. Please refer to the Rating Criteria section at the end of each item in the OSRI to identify which responses to questions will result in a Strength rating. For more information on the OSRI, see https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-instruments-tools-and-guides

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment

Practice Description	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	90% (27 of 30)
(Question 1B) Face-to-face contact with the child(ren) who is (are) the subject of the report were made in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	83.33% (25 of 30)
(Question 1C) Reasons for delays in initiation of investigations or assessments and/or face-to-face contact were due to circumstances beyond the control of the agency.	20% (1 of 5)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	86.67% (26 of 30)

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Item 2: Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency made concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry or reentry into foster care.	60% (6 of 10)	66.67% (6 of 9)	66.67% (2 of 3)	63.64% (14 of 22)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Although the agency did not make concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry into foster care, the child(ren) was removed from the home because this action was necessary to ensure the child's safety.	0% (0 of 10)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	0% (0 of 10)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	10% (1 of 10)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	10% (1 of 10)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Concerted efforts were not made to provide appropriate services to address safety/risk issues and the child(ren) remained in the home.	20% (2 of 10)	33.33% (3 of 9)	33.33% (1 of 3)	27.27% (6 of 22)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	70% (7 of 10)	66.67% (6 of 9)	66.67% (2 of 3)	68.18% (15 of 22)

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/ assessed.	97.44% (38 of 39)	94.74% (18 of 19)	66.67% (4 of 6)	93.75% (60 of 64)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (39 of 39)	100% (19 of 19)	100% (6 of 6)	100% (64 of 64)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	80% (4 of 5)	70% (7 of 10)	40% (2 of 5)	65% (13 of 20)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	66.67% (26 of 39)	52.63% (10 of 19)	66.67% (4 of 6)	62.5% (40 of 64)
(Question 3C) When safety concerns were present, the agency developed an appropriate safety plan with the family and continually monitored the safety plan as needed, including monitoring family engagement in safety-related services.	50% (3 of 6)	66.67% (4 of 6)	0% (0 of 1)	53.85% (7 of 13)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	66.67% (8 of 12)	66.67% (4 of 6)	50% (1 of 2)	65% (13 of 20)
(Question 3E) There were no concerns related to the safety of the target child in foster care during visitation with parent(s)/caregiver(s) or other family members that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	88.24% (30 of 34)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	88.24% (30 of 34)
(Question 3F) There were no concerns for the target child's safety in the foster home or placement facility that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	94.87% (37 of 39)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	94.87% (37 of 39)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	64.1% (25 of 39)	52.63% (10 of 19)	50% (3 of 6)	59.38% (38 of 64)

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 4B) Placement changes for the child were planned by the agency in an effort to achieve the child's case goals or to meet the needs of the child.	50% (7 of 14)	50% (7 of 14)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	92.31% (36 of 39)	92.31% (36 of 39)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	74.36% (29 of 39)	74.36% (29 of 39)

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file.	100% (38 of 38)	100% (38 of 38)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	65.79% (25 of 38)	65.79% (25 of 38)
(Question 5C) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were appropriate to the child's needs for permanency and to the circumstances of the case.	57.89% (22 of 38)	57.89% (22 of 38)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	76.32% (29 of 38)	76.32% (29 of 38)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 9)	0% (0 of 9)
(Questions 5F and 5G) The agency filed or joined a TPR petition before the period under review (PUR) or in a timely manner during the PUR or an exception applied.	86.21% (25 of 29)	86.21% (25 of 29)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	42.11% (16 of 38)	42.11% (16 of 38)

Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve reunification in a timely manner.	50% (3 of 6)	50% (3 of 6)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	0% (0 of 3)	0% (0 of 3)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	0% (0 of 7)	0% (0 of 7)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and 6C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to place a child with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) in a living arrangement that can be considered permanent until discharge from foster care.	0% (0 of 1)	0% (0 of 1)
(Questions 6A4 and B **or** 6A4 and C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve concurrent goals. If one of two concurrent goals was achieved during the period under review, rating is based on the goal that was achieved.	13.64% (3 of 22)	13.64% (3 of 22)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	15.38% (6 of 39)	15.38% (6 of 39)

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Item 7: Placement With Siblings

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 7A) The child was placed with all siblings who also were in foster care.	60% (15 of 25)	60% (15 of 25)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	60% (6 of 10)	60% (6 of 10)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	84% (21 of 25)	84% (21 of 25)

Item 8: Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was more than once a week.	56% (14 of 25)	56% (14 of 25)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	12% (3 of 25)	12% (3 of 25)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 25)	0% (0 of 25)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	16% (4 of 25)	16% (4 of 25)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	8% (2 of 25)	8% (2 of 25)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	8% (2 of 25)	8% (2 of 25)
(Question 8A) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	92% (23 of 25)	92% (23 of 25)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8C) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	95.45% (21 of 22)	95.45% (21 of 22)
(Questions 8A and 8C) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and mother was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	92% (23 of 25)	92% (23 of 25)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	35.71% (5 of 14)	35.71% (5 of 14)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	21.43% (3 of 14)	21.43% (3 of 14)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 14)	0% (0 of 14)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	0% (0 of 14)	0% (0 of 14)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	7.14% (1 of 14)	7.14% (1 of 14)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	35.71% (5 of 14)	35.71% (5 of 14)
(Question 8B) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	92.86% (13 of 14)	92.86% (13 of 14)
(Question 8D) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	100% (9 of 9)	100% (9 of 9)
(Questions 8B and 8D) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and father was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	92.86% (13 of 14)	92.86% (13 of 14)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	30% (3 of 10)	30% (3 of 10)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	20% (2 of 10)	20% (2 of 10)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	20% (2 of 10)	20% (2 of 10)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	20% (2 of 10)	20% (2 of 10)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	0% (0 of 10)	0% (0 of 10)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	10% (1 of 10)	10% (1 of 10)
(Question 8E) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	80% (8 of 10)	80% (8 of 10)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8F) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	88.89% (8 of 9)	88.89% (8 of 9)
(Questions 8E and 8F) The frequency and quality of visitation with siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	80% (8 of 10)	80% (8 of 10)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	89.66% (26 of 29)	89.66% (26 of 29)

Item 9: Preserving Connections

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 9A) Concerted efforts were made to maintain the child's important connections (for example, neighborhood, community, faith, language, extended family members including siblings who are not in foster care, Tribe, school, and/or friends).	81.58% (31 of 38)	81.58% (31 of 38)
Item 9 Strength Ratings	81.58% (31 of 38)	81.58% (31 of 38)

Item 10: Relative Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 10A1) The child's current, or most recent, placement was with a relative.	56.41% (22 of 39)	56.41% (22 of 39)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (22 of 22)	100% (22 of 22)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** maternal relatives.	44.44% (4 of 9)	44.44% (4 of 9)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** maternal relatives.	33.33% (3 of 9)	33.33% (3 of 9)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** maternal relatives.	55.56% (5 of 9)	55.56% (5 of 9)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** maternal relatives.	88.89% (8 of 9)	88.89% (8 of 9)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** paternal relatives.	42.86% (3 of 7)	42.86% (3 of 7)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** paternal relatives.	28.57% (2 of 7)	28.57% (2 of 7)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** paternal relatives.	57.14% (4 of 7)	57.14% (4 of 7)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** paternal relatives.	85.71% (6 of 7)	85.71% (6 of 7)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	71.79% (28 of 39)	71.79% (28 of 39)

Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 11A) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother.	60% (15 of 25)	60% (15 of 25)
(Question 11B) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her father.	64.29% (9 of 14)	64.29% (9 of 14)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	57.14% (16 of 28)	57.14% (16 of 28)

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Item 12: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 12 Strength Ratings	43.59% (17 of 39)	57.89% (11 of 19)	66.67% (4 of 6)	50% (32 of 64)

Sub-Item 12A: Needs Assessment and Services to Children

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12A1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the children's needs.	87.18% (34 of 39)	78.95% (15 of 19)	83.33% (5 of 6)	84.38% (54 of 64)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	73.33% (22 of 30)	75% (12 of 16)	50% (1 of 2)	72.92% (35 of 48)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	79.49% (31 of 39)	78.95% (15 of 19)	83.33% (5 of 6)	79.69% (51 of 64)

Sub-Item 12B: Needs Assessment and Services to Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the mother's needs.	72.41% (21 of 29)	83.33% (15 of 18)	80% (4 of 5)	76.92% (40 of 52)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	58.62% (17 of 29)	77.78% (14 of 18)	80% (4 of 5)	67.31% (35 of 52)
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	51.72% (15 of 29)	77.78% (14 of 18)	80% (4 of 5)	63.46% (33 of 52)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	50% (11 of 22)	33.33% (3 of 9)	50% (2 of 4)	45.71% (16 of 35)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	42.86% (9 of 21)	33.33% (3 of 9)	100% (3 of 3)	45.45% (15 of 33)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	45.45% (10 of 22)	33.33% (3 of 9)	50% (2 of 4)	42.86% (15 of 35)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	48.48% (16 of 33)	57.89% (11 of 19)	66.67% (4 of 6)	53.45% (31 of 58)

Sub-Item 12C: Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12C1) The agency adequately assessed the needs of the foster or pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care on an ongoing basis.	72.97% (27 of 37)	72.97% (27 of 37)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	65.38% (17 of 26)	65.38% (17 of 26)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	72.97% (27 of 37)	72.97% (27 of 37)

Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 13A) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the child in the case planning process.	90.91% (20 of 22)	60% (6 of 10)	75% (3 of 4)	80.56% (29 of 36)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	68.97% (20 of 29)	83.33% (15 of 18)	100% (5 of 5)	76.92% (40 of 52)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	59.09% (13 of 22)	37.5% (3 of 8)	50% (2 of 4)	52.94% (18 of 34)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	61.11% (22 of 36)	57.89% (11 of 19)	66.67% (4 of 6)	60.66% (37 of 61)

Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 39)	0% (0 of 19)	0% (0 of 6)	0% (0 of 64)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	0% (0 of 39)	0% (0) of 19)	0% (0 of 6)	0% (0 of 64)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	10.26% (4 of 39)	42.11% (8 of 19)	33.33% (2 of 6)	21.88% (14 of 64)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	82.05% (32 of 39)	42.11% (8 of 19)	50% (3 of 6)	67.19% (43 of 64)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	7.69% (3 of 39)	15.79% (3 of 19)	16.67% (1 of 6)	10.94% (7 of 64)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 39)	0% (0 of 19)	0% (0 of 6)	0% (0 of 64)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	87.18% (34 of 39)	84.21% (16 of 19)	83.33% (5 of 6)	85.94% (55 of 64)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	82.05% (32 of 39)	73.68% (14 of 19)	83.33% (5 of 6)	79.69% (51 of 64)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	71.79% (28 of 39)	68.42% (13 of 19)	83.33% (5 of 6)	71.88% (46 of 64)

Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 29)	0% (0 of 18)	0% (0 of 5)	0% (0 of 52)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	0% (0 of 29)	0% (0) of 18)	0% (0 of 5)	0% (0 of 52)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	13.79% (4 of 29)	44.44% (8 of 18)	40% (2 of 5)	26.92% (14 of 52)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	51.72% (15 of 29)	50% (9 of 18)	60% (3 of 5)	51.92% (27 of 52)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	31.03% (9 of 29)	5.56% (1 of 18)	0% (0 of 5)	19.23% (10 of 52)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	3.45% (1 of 29)	0% (0 of 18)	0% (0 of 5)	1.92% (1 of 52)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	68.97% (20 of 29)	94.44% (17 of 18)	100% (5 of 5)	80.77% (42 of 52)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	46.43% (13 of 28)	72.22% (13 of 18)	100% (5 of 5)	60.78% (31 of 51)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	48.28% (14 of 29)	72.22% (13 of 18)	100% (5 of 5)	61.54% (32 of 52)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 22)	0% (0 of 8)	0% (0 of 4)	0% (0 of 34)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	0% (0 of 22)	0% (0 of 8)	0% (0 of 4)	0% (0 of 34)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	9.09% (2 of 22)	0% (0 of 8)	25% (1 of 4)	8.82% (3 of 34)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	13.64% (3 of 22)	25% (2 of 8)	25% (1 of 4)	17.65% (6 of 34)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	54.55% (12 of 22)	37.5% (3 of 8)	25% (1 of 4)	47.06% (16 of 34)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	22.73% (5 of 22)	37.5% (3 of 8)	25% (1 of 4)	26.47% (9 of 34)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	45.45% (10 of 22)	50% (4 of 8)	50% (2 of 4)	47.06% (16 of 34)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	56.25% (9 of 16)	60% (3 of 5)	66.67% (2 of 3)	58.33% (14 of 24)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	40.91% (9 of 22)	37.5% (3 of 8)	50% (2 of 4)	41.18% (14 of 34)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	45.45% (15 of 33)	57.89% (11 of 19)	66.67% (4 of 6)	51.72% (30 of 58)

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs.	97.06% (33 of 34)	85.71% (6 of 7)	0% (0 of 2)	90.7% (39 of 43)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	88% (22 of 25)	85.71% (6 of 7)	0% (0 of 2)	82.35% (28 of 34)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	91.18% (31 of 34)	85.71% (6 of 7)	0% (0 of 2)	86.05% (37 of 43)

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Item 17: Physical Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 17A1) The agency accurately assessed the children's physical health care needs.	89.74% (35 of 39)	90.91% (10 of 11)	100% (2 of 2)	90.38% (47 of 52)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	81.82% (9 of 11)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	81.82% (9 of 11)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	84.21% (32 of 38)	81.82% (9 of 11)	100% (2 of 2)	84.31% (43 of 51)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	76.32% (29 of 38)	83.33% (5 of 6)	100% (1 of 1)	77.78% (35 of 45)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	70.27% (26 of 37)	80% (4 of 5)	100% (1 of 1)	72.09% (31 of 43)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	66.67% (26 of 39)	83.33% (10 of 12)	100% (2 of 2)	71.7% (38 of 53)

Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 18A) The agency accurately assessed the children's mental/behavioral health needs.	73.91% (17 of 23)	71.43% (5 of 7)	75% (3 of 4)	73.53% (25 of 34)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	70% (7 of 10)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	70% (7 of 10)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	63.64% (14 of 22)	66.67% (4 of 6)	33.33% (1 of 3)	61.29% (19 of 31)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	60.87% (14 of 23)	71.43% (5 of 7)	50% (2 of 4)	61.76% (21 of 34)